

02-277

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street SW
Washington, DC 20554

September 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Powell,

I feel **very strongly that relaxing the rules concerning how many media outlets can be owned by one company in a market is very wrong.** This **only** gives the huge media conglomerates more power over the information the people of the US receive. **And** the one important thing for a democracy is getting information to the **people--from** a variety of viewpoints. If a few big multinationals **can** control the **media** and the news people get---that's frightening!

In the San Francisco Bay Area, I've **seen** the result **of the** relaxing of these **rules.** We **used** to have several classical music stations. But **since** the big **corporations can now** buy more **stations in each** market, the price **goes** through the roof. The little **guys sell** out for a huge profit, **and** the new **stations must try to get a high** a rating as possible. **Thus, niche** markets like **classical music are** completely **neglected.** With a population of 5 million people—we have **only one** classical station (and it's "classical lite").

I believe these rule changes **are** one **of the** most pernicious **dangers** to our democracy in this era. Please, **go back to the "good old days"** when we had a multitude **of** viewpoints and **some** variety in **our** media.

Sincerely,


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FCC-MAILROOM



Michael Powell

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